

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 8, Folder 24

October 17, 1958 -
December 16, 1958

0591

J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

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October 17, 1958

PERSONAL

Admiral R. W. Bates, USN
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

Many thanks for your letter of October 14, 1958. For you to take the time to write to me is appreciated sincerely. On receipt I dispatched a post card to you stating that I heard you were in Europe. I don't recall who stated that you were, but it was around Bohemian Grove time, and was offered in explanation of your absence.

I am delighted that the Navy took advantage of your services until Christmas time to permit you to complete your last volume. Fortunately, too, you will have a staff including Jack Titus.

The clippings I have not yet read. I forwarded original prints to your two brothers, Tiny and the other Doctor in the family. I have always greatly admired Admiral Conolly; but now that he has caused objective recognition in perpetuity of your contribution to the Navy and our country, I think all the more of him.

The day will come, and in your lifetime, when a Naval War College Hall will be dedicated to the Navy's greatest modern military philosopher. It will be called Bates Hall and in it will hang a portrait by Fitzgerald. We won't settle for less; and in my next meeting with Bergen, I am going to enlist his support and the Navy Leagues's support for the quiet accomplishment of a deserved project.

I regret that I could not have been valedictorian at your ceremony, although I am certain that all the superlatives were genuinely and sincerely uttered.

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Admiral R. W. Bates, USN
Page Two
October 17, 1958

I should like to have the wording of the inscription in the clock, etc., gift. I hope you keep it until we can dedicate Bates Hall.

Your offer to help me - already you have done too much. Thanks many times.

Admiral Oldendorf wrote me recently stating he was moving to California via Washington and Newport. Possibly you have seen him. I shall, with your permission, forward the clippings asking he read them and return them to me. He is due in November.

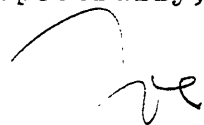
The SecNav Distinguished Civilian Award was this Tuesday, October 14, 1958, awarded to John Sutro. The award luncheon was attended by Admirals Nimitz, Curts, Russell, and Larson. Admiral Nimitz is still a very great man and resembling God more each year. I am certain he can be, and will be, helpful in a Bates Hall project. Great men never die.

Glad you saw "Mort" Deyo under the rigors of a football game. He should fluster every time he sees you. Hope Erdelatz keeps doing well for Navy.

Now that I know you are not in Europe, I shall keep in touch. Hello to Jack Titus, Willie Doyle, and Colonel Smith of the Reading Room.

My very best wishes to you, Sir!

Respectfully,



J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN
Captain, USNR

jjs/b

P. S. Incidentally, Judy is a Freshman at the University of California, Davis campus, and loves it.

0593



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF SHIPS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

8 DEC 1958

- Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

We have thoroughly examined our information on war damage to battleships and cruisers suffered by the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan to obtain answers to your questions about the fate of the FUSO at the Battle of Surigao Strait.

It is our conclusion that it is well nigh impossible for the FUSO to have broken into nearly equal parts because of her very rugged and damage resistant structure. The USS ARIZONA did not show any evidence of hull failure in the area enclosed by the armor belt, even though a massive magazine explosion occurred.

It is however considered possible that the FUSO may have lost her bow as a result of torpedo damage. Although our war experience does not include this type of failure in battleships, several cases exist where cruisers suffered this type of damage. In the case of the USS HELENA (CL 50) the bow section remained afloat for more than twelve hours.

It is probable therefore that if other evidence indicates the presence of two floating bodies this can best be explained by the separation of the bow from the main hull of the battleship. It is particularly noted that the two sections floated for less than an hour after initial damage, and this is not considered beyond the realm of possibility.

I hope that this information will prove useful, and I assure you that we would be happy to assist your studies in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Al

A. G. Mumma
Rear Admiral, USN

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415 EAST 52ND STREET
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.
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TEMPLETON 8-3392

Sunday
7 December 1958
PEARL HARBOR DAY

Dear Rafe,

I thank you most whole heartedly for your recent letter of 2 December, and I was very glad to have the little talk with you on Friday at the Walll Street Club. I am grateful for this exchange of views because I would not for the world have any misunderstanding arise after all these years in the Navy without ever incurring any great enmities.

I did think that you had written a good deal of the Morison version of Leyte and I am glad that you have set me right on that. In the future I shall be much fairer in my comment, if I comment at all.

I assume that if Ping Wilkinson had lived he would have been consulted in regard to his knowledge and views of what happened at Leyte. I was his Chief of Staff and not his Deputy because that would not have made sense, and in this position I was Chief of Staff in fact and not just in name. I was always very close to Ping and learned to absorb his moods and I don't recall that we ever had any unpleasantness. As his living representative I have expected that I might be called upon to contribute something toward the record of the forces and pressures which were responsible for some of the decisions taken at LEYTE.

In particular I refer to the decision to retain the CVEs in the positions allocated for their support operations of the invasion force. It was Ping and I together with our Operations Officer, Sullivan, who put the Jeep Carriers where they were. When, on the afternoon of October 24th., the imminent danger became apparent, Ping and I went aboard Kinkaid's flagship to see him. Together we went down to his CIC where there present, Kinkaid, Wilkinson, McCullom, Kinkaid's Chief of Staff who had no part in the discussion, and I. My principal preoccupation was the POSITION OF THE JEET^P CARRIERS. When I brought up the question Kinkaid said "What do you wish to do with them bring them in here?" "Certainly not, they could not operate in here. Neither can they operate where they are because with a prevailing northerly wind the only way they can launch aircraft is by closing the distance between them and the enemy which is most undesirable. Move them 30 miles to the East or South East". We had such a hot argument I kept notes and wrote up the episode when I got back to Mount Olympus. The following morning after we knew that the Japs were in full retreat I mentioned to Ping that nothing seemed to have been done in regard to searching the combat area for survivors, and when I suggested that if he thought proper for me to be excused from my regular duties I might volunteer to organize a small task force for the purpose. His reply was, "You have tangled

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enough with Kinkaid for the present. Better leave him handle his own business". It was two days later before any effective operations were carried out. One of the survivors of the ROBERTS (DD) was the son of O. O. Hagen, Class 1911. He was the only surviving officer. We had him aboard MOUNT OLYMPUS. His story makes dramatic reading.

Another point which I can not understand is the lack of any mention in Morison's book about Wagner and his Patrol activities. It was the reports which came from his planes which alerted us to the danger of the Jap Force coming out of San Bernardino, yet I have seen no mention of Wagner's name or report of anything he did. In the planning stage it was I who urged that Wagner be brought up from the Georgia-Bougainville area and placed directly under Kinkaid because I had no faith in Kenny's Force to do the job. Operating base facilities which we were able to provide were most primitive but they were good enough to last for a few days which was all that was required.

When you mentioned Salomon's name it occurred to me to give you some background about him but we did not have the time. About the time that Rear Admiral Morison first came out to the Pacific Admiral Nimitz sent for me and when I entered his office Morison was there. Nimitz introduced us and told me of Morison's duties then asked me to do all possible to facilitate the task. I was much pleased because at the beginning of the war I had made an effort to enroll a historian friend of mine (Meade) and attach him to my headquarters. When Professor Morison told me that he planned to do his job by personally embarking in combat operations and after viewing actions he would with the use of Plans and Orders and Action Reports compile the summary of events which would constitute History. I told him that I did not think this would suffice because during action even the Officer in Tactical Command usually had a most difficult time determining what was happening, that unless Plans and Orders were explained by an officer of technical ability they probably would not be understood and that a very mistaken conclusion could be gotten from depending upon Action Reports because they are always written from hindsight and the author is always psychologically inclined to minimize his own mistakes and magnify what he hopes have been his accomplishments. I then asked Morison to please attach to our Staff (I then being Chief of Staff for Wilkinson) at least two competent persons whose duties would be to keep a record of events as they developed. They would be expected to attend all Staff Conferences and would from time to time receive special briefings from Admiral Wilkinson and me so that some record would be made and preserved of what we were trying to do. Nimitz, who had been listening in most interested fashion approved of my idea and smilingly made some remark to the effect

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that we seemed to be trying to get all we could on the credit side of the ledger, because what one accomplishes is always so much less than one's aims. The result was that Morison sent us Salomon.

Solomon joined us at Camp Crocodile, Guadalcanal. At that time we had about 50 to 75 Correspondents. I used to have a briefing every morning at 0800 for them and these meetings were ususally well attended. I recognized that Salomon's position vis a vis the Correspondents might be a little difficult and did everything to keep him happy that I could. Naturally the Correspondents would want to know everything that Salomon knew while we were trying to keep him fully posted on everything except possible the ULTRAS. We got through this phase without any contretemps ever coming to my attention or my ears.

As time went on I used to wonder just how Salomon was working. Although he was welcomed among us he rarely attended the Staff Conferences and rarely asked either Wilkinson or me for any analysis or explanation with the result that I felt that at the end of the war such a poor record as I had kept with my yeoman was perhaps more authentic than his. Certainly I can tell you that after the LEYTE operation he never asked me anything about it and I doubt very much that he ever talked to Wilkinson because if he had I feel sure that Ping would have told me and would in all probablity had me present. So far as I know my personal relations with Salomon were always most cordial. Once after the war when I met him in New York he made a point of having my wife and me come and meet his mother who was a cultured and charming woman.

This is enough of the story for the present though there is still more that we could with profit discuss. Who carried the onus of Plans and Orders for instance? Morison, I assume did not know where these originated or what individual would be blameworthy if anything were wrong. It may be forgotten, that we did the plans for Mine Sweeping, Fire Support and preliminary operations, Communications, Air and the principal part of the Medical plan. If there had been any fault it would have been Ps Powell in trouble instead of being recommended for a Distinguished Service Medal.

You and I Rafe are about to close the book and when we do so we have the only satisfaction that can possibly come in a Naval career and that is having done our jobs as well as our abilities and circumstance would allow.

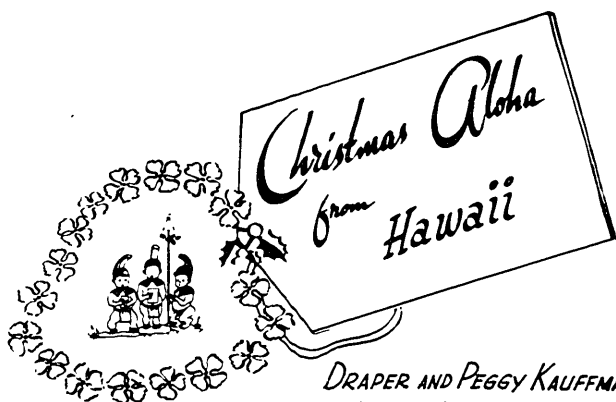
With warmest good wishes,

Sincerely,

P's Powell

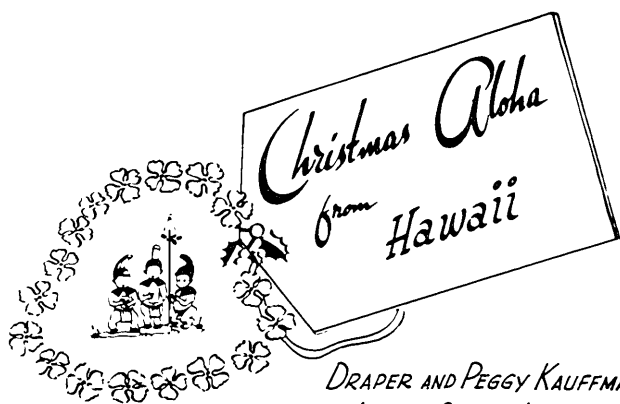
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P's Powell' with a stylized flourish at the end.

0597



DRAPER AND PEGGY KAUFFMAN
LARRY, CARY & KELSEY.

0598



DRAPER AND PEGGY KAUFFMAN
LARRY, CARY & KELSEY.

0599

47 Betio Place
Honolulu 18, T.H.

December 10, 1958

Dear Friends,

After a 2 year silence, Draper and I would like to get back on your list. To those of you who have undoubtedly moved by now, and will therefore get this in time for Valentine's Day, how about sending us an Easter Card so that we will know where you are?

For some of you who may be wondering how we got to Hawaii - let me go back a bit.

In July of 1957 Draper left the Pentagon (where he had been aide to SECNAV) and we all motored across the continent making a wonderful, though exhausting, 10-day sightseeing tour out of it. Thank heavens at the end of the trip Lew and Charlotte Snider welcomed us to Coronado martini's in hand. They then continued in the role of "comforters-in-chief" to the children and me as Draper departed almost immediately for WESTPAC in command of the USS BEXAR (APA237) - more of his tour later.

From August 15 to March 31 we hibernated in Coronado doing the usual round of Scouts, P. T. A., etc. The children loved Coronado and so did I, thanks to all our friends there.

March 31st came at last and the BEXAR steamed into view. Almost immediately Draper received orders to CINCPACFLT Staff as Fleet Plans Officer, relieving "Chick" King, and after a hectic summer (during which the BEXAR won the "E" and the Assault Boat Award), we sailed from L. A. aboard the Lurline.

Since we have been in Honolulu we have marveled at our luck. We are near so many good friends - both old and new - and the children are in excellent schools. After 2 months we moved into nice quarters in Makalapa. Draper, of course, managed to leave the day after our move for a 3 weeks tour of the Far East with Admiral Hopwood. It did not do him much good anyway. I saved all the picture hanging for him. By Christmas I hope we will be completely settled.

0600

Our Christmas card will attest to the fact that we are all fit and the children growing up fast.

Cary, who is 14, is a Freshman at Punahou (and, her proud parents add, on the Honor Roll). Her extra curriculums include Hula, cotillion and senior scouting.

Larry, also, is at Punahou. He is in the 7th grade and, being a normal boy, is giving his father grey hair over his casual approach to home work and his mother grey hair over the rate with which he out-grows his trousers. If he is 5'5" now when he is just 12, what will he be at 16? His main interests are surfing, golf and model planes.

Kelsey, at 11, vacillates between being a complete Tomboy and a perfect little lady - both with equal enthusiasm. Our little one is not one to do things halfway. Her continuing interest is still horses. After 4 years of being the leader of Cary's Scout Troops, I am now co-leader of Kelsey's and we are having great fun together.

Draper's family is in fine shape - mother and dad K. have promised to visit us next year for Christmas. This year they will be with Betty Lou and Pres Bush and their 3 children in Greenwich.

My sister, Elsie, is living with Dad this year as the rest of us are scattered. Ruth and Bob Metters and their 2 boys are in Spokane, Washington, where Bob is head master of St. George's. Alice and Bob Williams and their 2 girls are in Madison, Wisconsin, while Laura and Bill Triest with their Polly, are still in Annapolis. Elsie's son, Tuck, is at the University of Washington in Seattle and her daughter Sherry will be married December 28th at "Tuxeden" to Richard Germann a scientist at M. I. T. Everyone will be there except for the Metters who are coming to spend Christmas with us.

Speaking of Christmas - if I do not mail this soon, how can we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year?

God bless you all.

Fondly,

Draper

Larry

P. 11/18

Kelsey

All of the Kauffman's

0601

P.S. from Draper:

Had a wonderful one year "vacation" running around the Pacific in the BEXAR. I relieved Will Reifenrath, who turned over a fine "very efficient - no strain" ship. We left immediately for WESTPAC and had an unusually pleasant tour of the Far East with lots of good operations alternating with such ports as Yokosuka, Kobe, Sasebo, Subic and Hong Kong. I was surprised and delighted at the very high caliber of the officers and men we now have in the Amphibious Force.

Such a vacation couldn't last more than a year so I am now back at work again behind a desk, but the job is about the best shore duty I have run into, and, next to Washington, the most interesting.

I join Peggy and the kids in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Draper
Draper

0602

JOHN J. BERGEN
40 WALL STREET
NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

16 December 1958

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

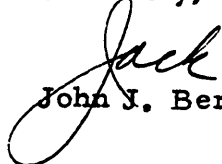
The trouncing we gave you at "cowboy pool" the last time you were here, I can assure you, had nothing to do with my affection for you but was only because I was anxious to satisfy my own ego.

I know that you will be leaving for the West Coast shortly to visit with your brothers and friends over the Christmas holidays. Therefore I wanted to drop you a line to let you know my Irish emotions always become a bit turbulent at this season of the year and I find myself wanting to write to you to-day to express to you my affection and my sincere admiration for the magnificent job you have accomplished for this splendid country of ours.

You are truly a splendid guy, Rafe, and knowing you and enjoying your friendship is something I will always cherish.

Wishing you and yours not only a Merry Christmas but also all the best in the coming year, I am,

Sincerely,


John J. Bergen

0603